

Community Ministry Portfolio
OFFICE FOR TRANSITION MINISTRY

Basic Information

Name of Church/Institution: Episcopal Church of the Advent/St. John's Chapel

Diocese: New Jersey

Address: 626 Washington Street. **Phone:** 609-884-3065
Cape May, NJ 08204 **Email:** adventsecretary@comcast.net

Contact Name/Phone/Email: Calvin Stafford, M.D., 609-884-3538,
calvin_stafford@me.com

Order of Ministry: *(circle one)* Bishop Deacon Lay Lay or Ordained **Priest**

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance(ASA): 122

Weekend Services: 2 **# Weekday Services:** 1 **# Other Services/Month:**
55 per year

Compensation, Housing & Benefits

Current Annual Compensation:

Cash Stipend: \$36,300 + years of service: 1-10 - 2.5% per year; 11-20 @ 2% per year

plus

Housing/Rectory: \$16,000 ()_check if housing supplied
If supplied, for ____ people

Plus

Utilities: \$ 0 *(if separate from housing figure)*

plus

SECA: \$ 7.65% of cash + housing representing reimbursement of: *(circle one)*
Full /Half /Other

Compensation Available for New Position: \$

Negotiable? Yes No *(circle one)*

Pension: \$ Stipend + Housing + SECA X 18% (X) *check to affirm compliance with CPF requirements*

Healthcare Option: *(circle applicable)* **Full family** /Clergy+1 / Clergy only / Negotiable

Dental Option: *(circle one)* **Yes** / No

Housing Equity Allowance in Budget? *(circle one)* **Yes / No** **Amount:** \$0

Vacation Time: One Month

Continuing Education Time: 10 days per year **Cont. Education Budget:** \$1008

Sabbatical Provision: *(circle one)* **Yes / No**

Travel/Auto Account: *(circle one)* **Yes / No** **Travel/Auto Budget:** \$

Other Professional Account: *(circle one)* **Yes / No** **Professional Budget:** \$4500

Additional Compensation note: *(~20 words)* N/A

Incumbent History & Church/Day Schools

(begin with most recent incumbent and record earlier dates in order)

Name: The Rev. Dr. John Mitchell Position Title: Rector

Date Be: 10/08 Date Ended: 1/18

Name: The Rev. Dr. James Fisher Position Title: Rector

Date Begun: 5/95 Date Ended: 3/07

Name: The Rev. Robert Kahl Position Title: Rector

Date Begun: 9/79 Date Ended: 9/94

Name: The Rev. William Stott Position Title: Rector

Date Begun: 8/66 Date Ended: 6/79

(Comments): N/A

Church School

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children's Church School: 3-6

Number of Students for Children School: 15

Number of Teen/Young Adult: N/A

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adult Church School: 2

Number of Students (Adults): 20

Day School: N/A

Number of Teachers for Day School:

Total Staff for School:

Number of Students:

Narrative

Instructions:

*In our baptism we promise to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ, seeking and serving Christ in all persons. You are invited here to reflect on your ministry by to the following questions (approximately 200 words, 1200 characters, **maximum limit including punctuation and space**, each response). You may answer in more than one language, if appropriate.*

1. Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognized as one of success and fulfillment.

It is the emergent dedication, resourcefulness, and capabilities of lay members at the moment our period of transition began. Not a program or initiative or need of others has been overlooked, neglected, or reduced during the months since our rector retired. Rather, the parish—as a whole—has stepped up, and its members have either led, facilitated, or given support to continuing its full spectrum of ministries. Continuity, and, in some cases improvements or new initiatives, are occurring without a dip in expectations or effectiveness. Worship, pastoral care, outreach, education/formation, stewardship, fellowship, administration, recreation, property maintenance, future planning, and routine hospitality have been timely performed with reliability, resilience, and enthusiasm. Our senior warden recently observed that at least 50% of our members are involved in some sort of parish ministry. This meta-ministry is the legacy of the example and leadership of our past rector; some of it is a development of a dedicated lay leadership; all of it is to the glory of God with the help of the Holy Spirit.

2. Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

In a word, Broadchurch. Our parish historically follows the lead of its rector loyally, flexibly, and with very little voiced dogma over worship style. This has meant that we have experienced a variety of styles or practices over time. We do reserve the sacrament. Recently we installed a monstrance in our Lady chapel/Columbarium to help focus devotion to invoke spiritual awareness of the “real presence” of Christ. A team of nine eucharistic ministers brings the consecrated sacraments to fourteen homebound or care-bound members. There are two principal worship services; both follow Rite 2. The early service is without music. It is quiet and draws those who seek a more meditative experience. The later service incorporates well-planned music and is more celebratory. sanctus bells are used at both services. Special seasonal services are more elevated approaching “high church” style.

3. How do you practice incorporating others into ministry?

We value listening and matching parish need with individual interests and talents. Often this process emerges within interstitial times e.g. coffee hour conversations, getting to know newcomers, or approaching members with known talents. Sometimes solicitation occurs in church announcements, the monthly newsletter, or through telephone canvass. A vestry person or clergy may contact someone and more formally recruit. While enthusiasm for a ministry is a key qualification, trust and demonstrated reliability are also important. The aim is inclusiveness and a role for everyone willing to take on one of many ministries, either within the parish or from the parish to the outside world. Some key ministries for recruitment and training are specific outreach programs, youth programs, eucharistic ministry, music, altar guild, and administrative functions. There is receptivity to new ministries and new ideas too. e.g. a recently adopted proposal for a monthly parish recreation night. Some are one-time opportunities; others become part of the ensemble of ministries the parish supports. The important shared value, however, is to listen, re-search, discuss, and discern before deciding.

4. As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being?

Our parish spiritual life centers on prayer and the sacraments. To ensure full accessibility, trained lay eucharistic ministers reach out to shut-ins and those with special needs on a weekly basis. Our parish supplements its sacramental focus with seasonal Taize services. We have a pastoral prayer chain, consisting of fourteen parish “prayer angels” lead by our deacon, We feature regular adult bible study and have a Sunday school for children. Worship is supported by an active choir and bell choir, hymn sings, and seasonal observances with special musical programs, concerts, and liturgies. Our emotional health is sustained by a dynamic and hardworking ECW and a mentoring ECM, both of which sponsor parish-wide social events including luncheons, parish dinners, work parties, community game parties, singles and doubles dinner parties, an active book club, an annual picnic, and rummage sales and crafts fairs. The physical well-being of the parish is addressed through the sponsorship of weekly gentle yoga classes and a weekly recreational walking group. It also has hosted adult line dance lessons.

5. Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region?

Our parishioners routinely participate in the wider church both at convocation and diocesan levels. Parish members serve on diocesan committees; one parishioner is a diocesan transition consultant. Our members have provided leadership in the development of youth programs for the convocation (or deanery) to which the parish is assigned. We also minister to the broader community. Several of our outreach programs network with other churches in the region, social service agencies, or through the ecumenical *Ministerium* in the city of Cape May. Our parishioners also provide administrative and liturgical support to the seasonal mission of St. Peter's By-the-Sea, which offers services for summering residents. Other members participate as elected, appointed, or as volunteers, e.g., in government or other secular positions, including city council (formerly), historic preservation commission, various non-profit boards, the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities, fire departments, and a borough "green team." One serves as an elected state assembly man.

6. How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

Our parish cares about people! We strive to provide concrete pastoral care to the underlying causes of pain, loss, anxiety, and need, and to support aspirations, respectively. Our primary instrument for this is our Outreach Committee, using pledged funds, donations, specific endowments, and hundreds of hours of labor. Examples of pastoral work include: annually raising funds for overseas refugee relief; collecting items for the Philadelphia Seaman's Institute Christmas kits; teaching young, unwed mothers meal preparation in our parish kitchen; buying and then inscribing Biblical art and verse on Habitat for Humanity construction lumber for new homes; providing meals, socialization, and overnight chaperones for home-evicted families forced to sleep in church shelters; collecting for local food pantries and a school program for at hunger risk students; and purchased food cards distributed through a local social agency. We also give scholarship support to young people who would learn music, dance, art, or seek educational support. Our pastoral care mission focuses near and far, addressing a broad spectrum of need.

7. Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

Our worshipping community features a history of outreach. A primary example is *Family Promise* ministry. Our role in this program has recently undergone a revitalization to encourage and better utilize more parish participants, yoking in common cause the efforts of eighty-four regional churches. The *Family Promise* mission prompts pastoral intervention into the plight of homeless families stricken by situational poverty. Advent realizes the lasting effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE). This gives impetus to rethink and implement a multi-faceted approach to meet emotional and psychological needs. Teaming with the local Cape May United Methodist Church, the parish uses multi-generational volunteers to provide home-cooked meals, safe restful nights, and socialization to evicted families with children. The parish creatively participates in fundraising events to sustain the long-term stability of this program. To those parishioners who participate, success and fulfillment merge in attending to human needs that go beyond the basic, physical ones. Points of Contact: Connie Campanella (703-623-2408); Marty Torpey (609-884-0784).

8. How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

Our parish is an active participator in diocesan affairs and programs. It shares the bishop's vision of a missional church for all—present generations and future ones. We are educating ourselves on the *Marks of Mission* principles proclaimed by the bishop in a recent convention: (1) Telling our story boldly; (2) pray, study, and evangelize; (3) minister to the poor and needy; (4) identify unjust structures and pursue social justice; and (5) preserve, remediate, and sustain life in our natural environment. We fully subscribe to our annual diocesan apportionment. Members serve on various diocesan committees and councils to include stewardship, missions, and transition ministry. Our parish also has a Heritage Campaign fund, raising capital for planning and sustaining its presence and witness in Cape May and Cape May County now and into the future. It seeks development and expansion, especially younger members. It is starting to learn the sound principles and tools offered through the diocesan canon for congregational growth and development.

9. What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

We view stewardship in this parish as the privilege to offer the hospitality of the Kingdom of God. Our annual stewardship drive is given impetus by the testimony and reflection of various individual parishioners who address the congregation during the pledge campaign season. Our elements of stewardship remain traditional—time, talent, and treasure—but we stress them sincerely. Those who have the first or second resources are valued as much as those who are blessed with treasure, but who are not able to give the former. All is sacrificial, i.e. set aside for the holy work of God. Supplementing this annual canvass are estate planning, a capital fund campaign to maintain and improve the physical plant and future need, designated gifts, and fundraising activities to supplement pledged and donated resources. The parish annually meets its fair share obligation to diocesan apportionment. When crises occur, either natural or man-made, the parish mobilizes and works in harness with the diocese and national church or through vetted third-parties.

10. What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

Our church recently faced a serious crisis! Its acute nature confronted our parish and vestry with the challenge of reintegrating a registered sex offender, a church member, back into our worshipping community while maintaining a safe church environment for all. This issue initially prompted sharp discord in our church family at a vulnerable moment. It occurred after the retirement of our rector and before we gained an interim rector! During this interstitial period, the vestry led and helped us embrace a commitment to define the conflict in terms of our Christian mission. After extensive research, seeking precedents or guidelines from throughout the national Episcopal community, our vestry drafted a model covenant, executed it with the offender, and subsequently mailed it to congregants. As a result, over a short time, we emerged reconciled and whole, overcoming the jarring effect of conflicting social and moral values. We succeeded in reaffirming a shared spiritual reality offering forgiveness and seeking unity among all of us sinners, proclaiming the love of Christ with responsibility and acceptance.

11. What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

Change is frequently difficult and sometimes fun. Some change is the result of innovation and new ideas. Typically these are introduced by an individual in the parish or a group suggesting “let’s try this,” such as establishing a monthly parish recreation night to allow early Sunday worshippers to socialize with those attending the later service. Often this goes well e.g. introducing Taize music into some services; sometimes not so well e.g. changing committee meeting times to accommodate working people. Some change dictates itself, e.g. lay members continuing to coordinate Bible study groups when the rector retired (so far so good). Some change is dictated to us e.g. reconfiguring the parish parking lot, losing valuable parking spaces per city planning board mandate. Some change is carefully planned and implemented e.g. our Heritage Program for improvement of our physical plant including that for disabled persons. Not all change is progress e.g. the staunch tradition-mindedness of typical Episcopalians. In sum, we have learned change is to be evaluated, questioned, sometimes resisted, and sometimes, appropriately adopted and implemented.

12. Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community. : Enter no more than four descriptions made up of one or two words each. For example: administration, asset management, preaching, pastoral care. This section provides you with the opportunity to present key words that describe the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community. You may choose any words you like.

- Proactive Pastor
- Creative Liturgist
- Un-nuanced Preacher
- Adept Administrator

Connections

Your Worshipping Community’s website: **www.capemayadvent.org**

You may provide the media links to your worshipping community: N/A

You may provide links here to other sites where you might be found: See ExecInsite Church of Advent.pdf. This report provides a detailed demographic description of Cape May, NJ, and a 3-mile radius surrounding it. Contact MissionInsite at misup-port@missioninsite.com to request report.

Languages significantly represented in your worshipping community: **English**
Approximate number of people: **All**

Final Comments:

We seek a **Rector**: 1) a **Leader** to partner with this enthusiastic congregation, coordinating our efforts and channeling our energies in the mission of Christ; 2) a **Pastor** to meet our individual, family, and group needs for growth in faith and love, to include our children and young adults; 3) a **Priest** to officiate at our liturgical worship; 4) a **Preacher** to transcribe the good news in a truculent world with prophetic insight; and, 5) a **Friend** to join us for fun in historic, beautiful, seaside Cape May, N.J. If this is **You**, we look forward to hearing from you.

References

Bishop's Name: The Very Rev. William H. "Chip" Stokes

Bishop's Contact Information:

Diocese of New Jersey, 808 W. State Street, Trenton, NJ 08618; 609-394-5281; info@dioceseofnj.org

Diocesan Transition Minister's Name: The Rev. Canon Brian Jemmott

Diocesan Transition Minister's Contact Information: Rev. Canon Brian Jemmott, Canon to the Ordinary/Transitions Ministry, 609-394-5281 Extension 21; bjemmott@dioceseofnj.org

Current Senior Warden's Name: Fred Obligado

Current Senior Warden's Contact Information: 609-898-9699; fobligado@aol.com

Previous Senior Warden's Name: Glenda Unzelmann

Previous Senior Warden's Contact Information: 609-898-1996; werneru@verizon.net

Nominating/Search Committee Chair's Name: (Co-Chairs) Sam Wilson, Jr. & Calvin Stafford

Nominating/Search Committee Chair's Ministry: (Wilson) Bible Study Leader; (Stafford) Jr. Warden & Bible Study Leader

Nominating/Search Committee Chair's Contact Information: (Wilson) 434-392-8123; samwilsonjr46@gmail.com; (Stafford) 609-884-3538; calvin_stafford@me.com

Parish/Institution Leader's Name: The Rev. Douglas Halvorsen

Parish/Institution Leader's Ministry: Interim Rector

Parish/Institution Leader's Contact Information: 609-884-3065; adventinfo@comcast.net

Local Community Leader's Name: Hon. Clarence F. Lear, III

Local Community Leader's Relationship: Mayor, City of Cape May

Local Community Leader's Contact Information: 609-884-9535; clear@capemaycity.com